### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Prope	rty					
nistoric name	Baltimore County	y Jail				
other names _E	3A-205					
. Location			Y			
treet & number	222 Courthous	e Court		IV II C	not fo	or publication
ity or town Tov	wson	19				☐ vicinity
tate Maryland	code	MD county	Baltimore	code	005 zip code	21204
. State/Federal A	gency Certificati	ion			*	
Places and meets not meet the Nati See continuation Signature of certification State or Federal a	s the procedural and pronal Register criteria. sheet for additional confrience of the property	rofessional requirem. I recommend that th mments).	National Register criteri	R Part 60. In my cred significant ☐ r	opinion, the property <b>I</b> nationally □ statewide	meets □ does e priocally. (□
State or Federal a	agency and bureau					
. National Park S	ervice Certificati	on				
☐ determined eligib Register, ☐ See contir	tional Register, nuation sheet, le for the National nuation sheet, ligible for the National		Signature	of the Keeper		Date of Action

Name of Property (BA-205)		County and State		
5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resour (Do not include previous)	ces within Property y listed resources in the co	ount)
<ul><li>□ private</li><li>☑ public-local</li><li>□ public-State</li><li>□ public-Federal</li></ul>	<ul><li>building(s)</li><li>district</li><li>site</li><li>structure</li><li>object</li></ul>		Noncontributing 0	_ buildings _ sites _ structures _ objects _ Total
Name of related multiple prop	erty listing	number of contribu	uting resources pre	viously
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of	a multiple property listing)	listed in the Nation	al Register	
N/A		_0		
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Government/Correctional	facility-jail	Current Functions (Enter categories from instr Vacant/not in use	ructions)	
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instr	ructions)	
Mid – 19 <sup>th</sup> Century / Italian	nate	foundation stone		

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

See Continuation Sheet 7-1

			ore County Jail (BA-205) f Property	Baltimore County, MD County and State
-	8. 5	Stat	ement of Significance	
)	(Ma	rk "x	rable National Register Criteria "in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for Register listing)	Area of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
	$\boxtimes$	Α	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.	Politics/ Government Architecture
		В	Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
	$\boxtimes$	С	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a	
	Δ		type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity	Period of Significance
			whose components lack individual distinction.	1855 - 1940
		D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates
3	Crit	teria	Considerations	-
	Mai	rk "x'	in all the boxes that apply)	1855 original construction
ű	Dro	nort	y is:	1905 renovations to cellblock interior 1940 garage addition
9	-10	pert	y 15.	1940 garage addition
		Α	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
		В	removed from its original location.	
1		С	a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation
I		D	a cemetery.	
I		E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
[		F	a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder Dixon, Balbirnie, & Dixon, architects (1855);
[		G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	James S. Nussear, Jr., architect (1905) William H. Allen, Builder (1855)
			ve Statement of Significance the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)	
-	9. N	/lajo	or Bibliographical References	2
_	_		graphy	
(	Cite	the	books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one	e or more continuation sheets)
1	Pre	vio	us documentation on files (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
	]		preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	☐ State Historic Preservation Office ☐ Other State agency ☐ Federal agency ☑ Local government ☐ University ☐ Other  Name of repository:
	[		recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Traine of repository.

Baltimore County Jail BA-205	Baltimore County, MD County and State
10. Geographical Data	Statily and state
Acreage of Property Less than one acre	Towson, MD quad
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)	
1 1 8 3 6 1 5 0 6 4 3 6 1 9 1 6 Zone Easting Northing	3 Zone Easting Northing
2	4
	☐ See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)	
Boundary Justification	
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)	
11. Form Prepared By	
~	
name/title Charles Belfoure	
Organization	date 10/1/08
street & number 4596 Wilders Run Lane	telephone 410-840-4494
city or town Westminster state	MD zip code 21158
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the propert	y's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having larg	e acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the proper	ty.
Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)	
name Martin P. Azola / Towson Jail Associates LI	.C
street & number 1414 Key Highway	telephone 410-528-1546
	MD zip code 21230
Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for	

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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#### **Description Summary:**

The Baltimore County Jail, constructed in 1855, is a 2-story Italianate style stone building that was used as a correctional facility until 2006. It is located on the northwest corner of Bosley Ave. and Towsontown Blvd. in Towson, MD. The building consists of a 5-bay wide warden's quarters with a central 3-story entry tower and a rear cellblock that houses 3 levels of jail cells. Connected to the south side of the warden's house is a 1-story garage of stone construction, built in 1940, to transfer prisoners to and from police and department of correction vehicles. Over its history, the Baltimore County Jail has remained largely unaltered except for the replacement of the original cells in 1905. The building is structurally sound and the exterior is in excellent condition. The interior of the warden's quarters, which retains most of its historic fabric, is in deteriorating condition. The interior of the cellblock is in excellent condition.

#### **General Description:**

#### Exterior:

The Baltimore County Jail is a symmetrically designed two-story with basement structure with overall measurements of 52' wide and 62' deep. A low pyramidal hipped roof covers the warden's quarters, and its 3-story entry tower. A low gable roof covers the rear cellblock. The entire building is constructed of stone load bearing exterior walls approximately 30" thick, laid in a coursed fieldstone pattern. The windows are divided light double hung units with stone lintels and sills.

#### East Elevation (Principal Façade)

A 3-story entrance tower with a low hipped roof and chimney is at the center of the 5-bay, 2-story east elevation and contains a wood double-door entry with an arched transom containing iron bars in a fanlight design. At the second story in the tower is a 1 over 1 double hung window with a stone lintel and sill and at the third story are three narrow 2 over 2 double hung windows. The tower has a wooden cornice with a 16" overhang and a chimney that extends approx. 5 feet above the roof. Flanking the tower are 2 bays of original 6 over 6 double hung windows with stone lintels and sills approx 4'-6" tall at the raised basement, 5'-6" at the first story and 4'-6" at the second story. Some of the windows have wooden frame screens which are not original.

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#### North Elevation

The north elevation is composed of 2 sections: a 2-bay warden's quarters and a connecting 3-bay cell block section which is set back 2 feet from the face of the warden's quarters. The fenestration of the warden's quarters matches the east elevation except for an original wooden door at the basement level at the northeast corner and a new door that has been cut into an original first story window which is accessed from grade by a wooden stairway leading to a concrete slab platform supported by stone piers. The platform connects to a large stone chimney that was built at a later date. The cellblock fenestration is 6 over 6 wood double hung windows with stone lintels and sills. Every window in the cellblock is fitted with steel bars. Both the warden's quarters and cellblock have a simple wood box cornice with a 12" overhang.

#### West Elevation

The west elevation, which is the rear exterior wall of the cellblock, is a 3-story, 2-bay composition with 6 over 6 wood double hung windows with stone lintels and sills. Every window in the cellblock is fitted with steel bars. A walk-out basement wood door is located at the northwest corner.

#### South Elevation

The south elevation is similar to the north elevation, composed of 2 sections: a 2-bay and a connecting 3-bay cell block section which is set back 2 feet from the face of the warden's quarters. The fenestration of the cellblock is identical to the north elevation. Connected to the warden's quarters is a 25' by 28' 1-story, garage which has a low slope gable roof with a built-up membrane. It is constructed of matching stone and has an overhead door with large steel windows with 6" x 9" divided lights of obscured glass on its south and west elevations. The fenestration of the warden's quarters is similar to the north elevation at the first and second stories except for a door infilled in an original window opening at the second story which opens onto a steel fire stair that exits behind the garage. There is a walk-out basement door located at northeast corner.

#### Architectural Integrity of Exterior

The exterior of the Baltimore County Jail is largely intact with its original stone walls, entry tower, doors, and roofs unaltered. Most of the original windows are intact except in two locations where new exit doors were cut into existing window openings. Two windows were removed on the south elevation where a garage was attached in 1940. The rear cellblock building, which was reconstructed in 1905 using the same basement walls to provide new cells and concrete floors, has remained unaltered.

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#### Interior:

#### First Floor – Warden's Quarters

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Through the double doors of the main entry is an entrance hall with steps leading up to double doors with rectangular transom into the first floor central lobby in the warden's quarters. The central lobby is a 2-story symmetrical space containing a grand curving staircase and is lit by a pyramidal sky light. The lobby is surrounded by 4 rooms located at the corners of the building. The floor is constructed of timber framing and wood strip flooring which has been covered with vinyl tile. The original baseboards and door trim in the lobby remain but the doors into the rooms have been replaced. The original interior walls are wood framed with plaster but most of the original wood trim work inside the rooms is gone. The original 10' high plaster ceilings in the 4 rooms are covered by dropped ceilings. The rooms in the northeast and southeast corners retain their brick fireplaces. The staircase retains its original treads and risers and its walnut newel post, railing, and balusters as well as its its trim work on the the stringer and balcony which runs along the perimeter of the second story. A door under the main stair leads to another stair to the basement which has the same railing and newel post detail.

#### First Floor - Cellblock

A door in the west wall of the lobby under the balcony leads to the first floor cell block which contains 10 cells approx. 5'-6" wide and 7'-6' deep with a corridor running along three sides. The cells are divided by 6" plastered masonry walls with sliding steel doors. The inside of the exterior walls throughout the cellblock are plaster on stone and the floors are concrete. A steel stair on the north elevation runs down to the basement cell block and another runs up to the second floor cell block.

#### Second Floor – Warden's Quarters

The main stair leads to a balcony with a wood railing that looks over the first floor lobby. Off the balcony are 4 rooms that match the dimensions of the ones on the first floor below. The original baseboards and door trim along the balcony remain but the doors into the rooms have been replaced. The original interior walls are wood framed with plaster but most of the original wood trim work inside the rooms is gone. The original 10' high plaster ceilings in the 4 rooms are covered by dropped ceilings. In the tower section which is above the entry stair is a bathroom with a ceiling hatch to the third level of the tower.

#### Second Floor - Cellblock

The second floor cellblock which is only accessed by the stair from the first floor cell block is identical to the one below except that a corridor runs along all four sides and has 12 cells, 3 of which have been converted into storage closets.

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#### Basement - Warden's Quarters

The stair from the lobby runs down to the basement which is roughly divided into the same arrangement as the first floor rooms, one of which is a furnace room. Doors at the northeast and southeast corners lead directly outside.

#### Basement Cellblock & Garage

The basement cell block which is only accessed by the stair from the first floor is identical to the second floor cell block with 12 cells and a corridor running along all four sides with 3 cells having been converted into storage closets. An original wood door at the northwest corner leads directly outside and a door in the south wall leads to a 1-story garage which is constructed of brick and stone with a concrete floor.

#### Architectural Integrity of Interior

Given its use and age, the interior of the warden's quarters of the Baltimore County Jail is remarkably intact with its original staircase, interior partitions, and some of its trim work remaining unaltered and in place, although in poor overall condition. It still conveys its original architectural identity and function as when it was built in 1855. The cellblock also retains its architectural identity with all the cells and stairs in place since its renovation in 1905.

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#### **Summary Statement of Significance:**

The Baltimore County Jail, built in 1855, is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government for its association with the establishment of Baltimore County as an independent jurisdiction. The jail, and the nearby Baltimore County Courthouse (listed in the National Register), which was built at the same time and designed by the same architect, survive to reflect the creation of Baltimore County in 1851.

The Baltimore County Jail derives additional significance under National Register Criterion C, as a rare and largely intact example of prison architecture from the pre-Civil War period in Maryland. The building still shows the layout and operation of a county jail, retaining its original rooms for administration and warden's quarters, and three levels of cells. Its construction of massive load bearing stone walls and timber framing characterize prison architecture of the era. It is also an outstanding example of governmental architecture designed in the Italianate style in the region. Its massing, proportion, fenestration, detailing, and tower are all important architectural features that exemplify this style which was popular before and after the Civil War. The design of the building is a restrained handling of the Italianate without the usual ornate detailing, giving the jail an imposing fortress-like presence. The interior features a pyramidal skylight in the central two-story hall, and a curving stair and balcony with all of its detailing intact. The building exhibits the local craftsmanship of fieldstone masonry of the period. The jail is the work of the well-known mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century Baltimore architectural firm Dixon & Dixon, whose other projects include the Baltimore County Courthouse, Lutherville Seminary, St. Agnes Church in Baltimore County, and the Baltimore City Jail.

The period of significance, 1855-1940, begins with the original construction of the jail and ends with the construction of the garage addition, by which date the building substantially achieved its present form and appearance.

### **Resource History and Historic Context:**

The design and construction of the Baltimore County Jail became necessary when Baltimore County and Baltimore City separated into two distinct self-governing jurisdictions in 1851. Baltimore City had become the county seat of Baltimore County in 1768, and although it later incorporated and operated under a different form of government, it remained part of the county. But over the years, differences grew between the demands of an increasingly urbanized city and an agrarian county. The first attempt at separation came in a referendum in October 1838, where it was defeated 2,270 to 388. Separation was finally agreed upon in 1851, and the new county government had to decide on the location of the new county seat. In February 1854, Towson was

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chosen by the voters. The city and county had always shared a courthouse and jail and the Maryland legislature authorized the county to continue this arrangement until new buildings were provided. In 1854, the General Assembly authorized the county to select sites and build a courthouse and jail for \$50,000 and \$12,000 respectively. In August 1854, for the sum of \$5, Dr. Grafton M. Bosley deeded a tract on the west side of the York Turnpike for the buildings – four acres for the courthouse and two acres for the jail.

When Baltimore replaced Joppa as the county seat in 1768, it was ordered by the legislature to build a jail. The design of this early jail is unknown. It was replaced in 1799 with a new building on a six-acre parcel where the present Baltimore City Jail now stands. Designed by the gentleman-architect Nicholas Rodgers and builder-architect Robert Cary Long, Sr., it was a quadrilateral plan enclosing a square court. Instead of using a congregate room, which was the usual means of housing prisoners in that period, the jail had 20-square-foot cells. Rogers is said to have added Gothic parapets to the design to give it an air of authority. In 1851, the legislature appropriated \$50,000 for the construction of a new city jail.

After acquiring Dr. Bosley's site, the Baltimore County government hired the firm of Dixon, Balbirnie, & Dixon in June 1854 to design both the new courthouse and jail. The builder William H. Allen of Cambridge, Maryland was hired to construct both buildings simultaneously. Dixon & Dixon was one of the most important mid-nineteenth century firms in Baltimore. Thomas Dixon (1819-1886) was a native of Wilmington, Delaware who came to Baltimore in the late 1840s and began his architectural practice in 1849 designing the Aged Women's Home on West Lexington Street in Baltimore in a Gothic Revival style. In late 1851, he formed a partnership with his brother, James W. Dixon (1817-1863) and a Scotsman named Thomas Balbirnie. The firm designed Waverly Terrace, a group of eleven rowhouses on Franklin Square, St. Agnes Catholic Church, Lutherville Seminary, and Union Square Methodist Church. In 1856, the same year Balbirnie left the firm to open his own office, Dixon & Dixon designed an octagonal building for the Mount Washington Female College. In 1858, Dixon & Dixon revised the designs of Boston architect, Gridley J.F. Bryant, for the Baltimore City Jail. Using the Gothic Revival style, the firm created a stone fortress housing 600 cells. In 1859, they won the competition for the Sheppard Asylum in Baltimore County but the designs was ultimately done in 1861-1862 by Calvert Vaux, the co-designer of Central Park in New York City. From 1871 to 1879, Dixon practiced with Charles L. Carson, designing the Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church, the parsonage of Brown Memorial Church, and the Mount Washington Presbyterian Church. Dixon formed a partnership with Thomas C. Kennedy from 1880 to 1885.

By the time Dixon got his first jail commission, prison architecture had been slowly evolving in America over 150 years. In colonial America before the 1700s, imprisonment of criminals was

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cells.

rare. Instead, harsh penalties such as flogging, branding, and death by hanging were imposed. For lesser crimes, offenders were fined, banished, or shamed by being put in the stocks or the public cage. The object of the punishment was deterrence, to prevent the offender from repeating his crime. After America won its independence, it repudiated much of British justice, which included the death penalty for crimes such as robbery, and most states restricted execution to first-degree murder. The nation then confronted the question of what punishment should substitute for execution. Long-term incarceration was thought to be the answer and prisons were needed. With very few exceptions like Newgate Prison in Connecticut, which was just two wood frame houses surrounded by a wooden fence, there were no prisons in America. Local jails were just secured rooms that only held men awaiting trial or the convicted awaiting punishment. Beginning in the eighteenth century in England and France, there was a movement that spoke out against the death penalty and physical cruelty, and the idea of imprisonment took hold. Prisons, workhouses, and penal colonies were created to punish criminals. Early prisons in England were overcrowded filthy environments where women, debtors and children were all imprisoned with dangerous felons and the insane in one single space. In 1777, a British reformer named John Howard exposed these conditions in his book The State of Prisons in England and Wales. The book was influential in the passage of the Penitentiary Act of 1779 which reformed the British prison system. Howard and an architect named William Blackburn became important pioneers in the development of prison architecture, believing that good design could promote order and cleanliness. America followed the British example of prison reform and each state built a state penitentiary. Maryland's was constructed in 1804, using a congregate room instead of individual

In England, the Quakers had also been very influential in prison reform. In 1787 in Philadelphia, they organized what is now called the Pennsylvania Prison Society which believed that prisons should reform as well as punish, and called for improved conditions with a prison routine based on hard work and solitary confinement. New York and Pennsylvania based their prisons on these principles where each prisoner worked alone all day in his cell, believing the isolation would cause prisoners to think about their crimes and feel sorry, hence the word penitentiary originating from the word penitence which means sorrow for wrongdoing. In 1790, the Walnut Street Prison in Philadelphia, where all the inmates were housed in one big space, adopted the idea.

A rival prison reform method to the Pennsylvania Plan evolved in New York in 1820s. Called the Auburn Plan, it was first employed in 1825 at Auburn State Prison in Auburn, New York. There, prisoners ate and worked together in silence, and returned at night to their solitary cells which measured 7 feet by 3½ feet by 7 feet high. Each plan had its passionate supporters. Auburn proponents said the Pennsylvania Plan was unnatural, driving inmates to madness, and that working together increased productivity for prison industry, an important source of revenue

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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to operate prisons. Around this time, Blackburn's idea of architecture as an important element of reform came back to life with the Boston Prison Discipline Society stating that "the prospect of improvement in morals depends, in some degree, upon the construction of buildings." More thought was given to the design of American prisons and jails. It was at this time that the English émigré architect, John Haviland, revolutionized prison design with his Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia in 1823-1829 and the New Jersey State Prison in Trenton in 1833-1836. Haviland's scheme emphasized solitary confinement, day and night, with inmates' work carried out in their cells. Based on a massive radial plan housing scores of cells, each with light and air, it became the model for prisons all over the world.

By the late 1820s, more states including Maryland built new prisons and almost all adopted the less expensive Auburn Plan. American prisons followed a philosophy of silence and rigid discipline based on a military model requiring both guards and inmates to wear uniforms and march in line. Harsh punishments were meted out for any infraction of the rules. The design of prisons also had a military feel, reflected in Gothic Revival designs resembling medieval fortresses with turrets and thick high walls that signified security and permanence, such as Haviland's Eastern State Penitentiary. An architectural feature of the Auburn Plan was the back-to-back placement of the cellblocks with a corridor between the cells and the outer walls. It was adapted to a radial design by Bryant and Dwight for the Charles Street Jail in Boston in 1848-1851, which became quite influential.

By the 1850s, county jails were still largely used for imprisoning convicted felons for terms less than a year and holding prisoners awaiting trial and sentencing, but they adopted many of the concepts of prison design that had evolved in the first half of the nineteenth century. Well-ventilated cells grouped back-to back with one prisoner to a cell were basically the norm. On February 10, 1855, the first detailed description of the interior of the Baltimore County Jail was given in the *Baltimore Sun*:

"The New Jail is to be constructed on the separate confinement principle, each cell to be 7 feet by 12 feet nine inches, and 9 feet high, the walls are built of stone, and the ceilings arched with bricks, a board floor will laid on the brick arches. The jail will be three stories in height and 36 feet 6 inches by 48 feet over the walls with eight cells in each story, a corridor of 15 feet wide, running through the jail, is open from the lower floor to arched ceiling of the roof, a height of about 33 feet, and well lighted by eight skylights."

Dixon's designs for the Baltimore County buildings demonstrated the variety of architectural styles used in the 1850s. The courthouse was in the Greek Revival style while the jail was done in the Italianate using a square two-story and basement form with a central 3-story entry tower

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topped by a low hipped roof. These were key features of Italian villa architecture that was then being popularized by the books of Andrew Jackson Downing, especially *The Architecture of Country Houses*. Many residences in the region were built using the style with a 3-story tower such as Anneslie in Towson by J.R. Niernsee and Trevanion in Uniontown. Given its purpose, the jail used the massing and proportion of the Italianate but eschewed the usual embellishments found on residences.

In 1855, the jail was complete and occupied by Sheriff Samuel P. Storm, who was also the warden and who lived in the front section of the jail in the rooms surrounding the two-story lobby, using some of the rooms on the first story for the administration of the jail. The Grand Jury of the Baltimore County Court made an annual inspection visit in March, 1857, and declared the jail was properly kept, but found fault with the design and construction of the jail. They complained that the jail was already overcrowded with three people to a cell and of the 24 cells, 12 were not secure because they lacked iron doors, and the door in the rear wall of the jail was wooden, not iron. Haviland's influential design for Eastern State Penitentiary had included a toilet in each cell that was flushed once a day, and Dixon similarly provided each cell with a toilet. The Grand Jury found the water supply inadequate for flushing the jail's toilets which made the building smell terrible. "The jury regards the jail as badly adapted to the purpose for which it was erected, and in their opinion it can only be rendered safe by enclosing the same with a substantial stone wall." In the following decades, the grand jury would continually call attention to the inadequacies of the jail. By 1871, a board fence was erected around the building. Many citizens complained to the Baltimore County Advocate that \$14,000 was a "paltry sum" for a jail. In the nineteenth century the concept of reform instead of punishment had become quite popular, and jails and prisons provided religious and educational opportunities for inmates. By January 1858, it was mentioned in the *Baltimore County Advocate* that there was a jail library and that church services were held.

A report of the first escape came in October 1859 when John O. Little, who serving time for manslaughter, cut a hole through the wall of his cell. In the evening, he got out and with a false key, and opened the cell doors of three other inmates. Using a rope made of bedclothes, they were lowering Charles Loveday, to the ground when they were caught. Only Loveday, who had been serving time for vagrancy, got away. Very few people were held for violent crimes. One of the first assault-with-intent-to-kill cases came in 1857. John Hamah and his wife had sold their house to William Marshall but believed their shrubbery was not part of the sale. When they came to dig it up, Marshall stopped them, and they tried to assault him with the spade and hatchet they had brought. When a police officer came to arrest the Hamahs at their house, Mr. Hamah shot at the officer and his wife tried to scald him.

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County and State

Most of the prisoners were confined for months awaiting trial for petty offenses or vagrancy, including some inmates who managed to get themselves arrested for a petty crime when the weather got cold in order to "winter" at the jail. In 1884, the Prisoners' Aid Association of Maryland complained that there was only one mattress to a cell that held four or five inmates and that the cost of keeping a prisoner was very expensive: \$40 to \$60 a day. The Association blamed the overcrowding on the practice of paying County magistrates for each incarceration, and asserted that the number of prisoners would decrease and the County could save money if the magistrates were paid a fixed salary. In 1868, the Sheriff provided a new iron bedstand with a mattress and blanket for each cell, the first of other comforts he proposed to introduce. Subsequent wardens would try to entertain the prisoners as the new warden, Robert Nelson, did in 1894, when he gave a Punch and Judy Show and allowed the inmates to walk the corridors for a few hours.

Very infrequently, prisoners were held in the jail to await execution, which was carried out in the rear prison yard. A door at the northwest corner of the building led to a gallows. Perry Kennard was executed in 1861 for rape, as was William Pritchard in 1871. In 1873, Levin Palmer, Pritchard's accomplice, was hanged for rape but his execution was botched; his neck did not break and after twenty minutes he strangled to death. Executions at the jail were not public; the time of execution was a closely-kept secret. Twenty-one men, mostly law enforcement and members of the press, plus eleven people watching from a hill witnessed Palmer's hanging at seven in the morning. The newspaper reported that no women were present. In 1877, James R. Hawkins was hanged. All the executed prisoners had been black. Only Kennard had murdered his victim. There was only one incident of lynching in the jail's history, on July 12, 1885, when a black prisoner named Howard Cooper was taken from the jail by a mob and lynched from a tree on the jail property. In 1906, Isaac Winder, a black man awaiting execution for murder of a tollgate keeper, escaped from the jail and was hunted by the police as well as a lynch mob, but was rescued before the mob caught him. A large percentage of the inmates over the history of the jail seem to have been black men including Simon J. Bondsley who died in jail in 1876. He had claimed to be one hundred years old and a former slave of Charles Carroll of Carrollton. All black prisoners were housed in the basement cells.

The jail had to be continually repaired and upgraded. The minutes of the County Commissioners are filled with entries for the jail, such as a new windmill for the jail yard, a new furnace and well, and the repair of a sink in the jail yard. In November 1895 the original iron doors of the cells were replaced by ones made of steel. The most extensive improvement came in 1905 when the entire cellblock was renovated to the design of architect James S. Nussear, Jr. Twelve inmates had escaped since the jail's original construction; to prevent further escapes, the interior walls were taken down to the basement and rebuilt to support a new concrete slab floor with a

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

BA-205
Baltimore County Jail
Name of Property
Baltimore County, MD
County and State

Section 8 Page 7

new layout of thirty-four cells with corridors running along four sides of the cells on the basement and second level and on three sides on the first level. New stairs on the north side of the cellblock were also installed. It is basically this configuration that exists today. The original roof was probably replicated but without the skylights. The warden's quarters was untouched. Since 1905, the cell doors have been replaced.

To facilitate the transfer of prisoners, a garage was built in 1940 at the south wall of the building with a doorway into basement cellblock. In 1956, a new jail was built behind the old jail. It was originally intended to be an office building for the county but was converted into a jail during construction. In 1956, a new jail with a 7,200 SF footprint was constructed ten feet behind the rear of the original jail. In 1975, an annex with a 2,800 SF footprint housing 175 inmates was constructed, connecting to the north side of the 1956 jail. In 1982, a second freestanding annex with a 3,000 SF footprint housing inmates was built to the northeast of the original jail.

In 1982, a new County jail was constructed on Kenilworth Drive, and the original jail was used for a work release program, but in the same year, because of concerns about fire safety, the work release program moved out. The cellblocks were used to store county records. In 1986, because of an increased inmate population, the original jail again was used for 40 work release inmates. The warden's quarters in the original jail was renovated and used for work release for female prisoners until 2006, when a new \$77 million jail for 1,500 inmates was opened on the Kenilworth Drive site. The 1956, 1975, and 1982 buildings surrounding the original jail were demolished and an adaptive reuse was sought for the historic building.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

BA-205
Baltimore County Jail
Name of Property

Baltimore County, MD
County and State

Section 9 Page 1

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

BA-205
Baltimore County Jail
Name of Property

Baltimore County, MD
County and State

Section 9 Page 2

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

BA-205
Baltimore County Jail
Name of Property

Section	10	Page	1

Baltimore County, MD
County and State

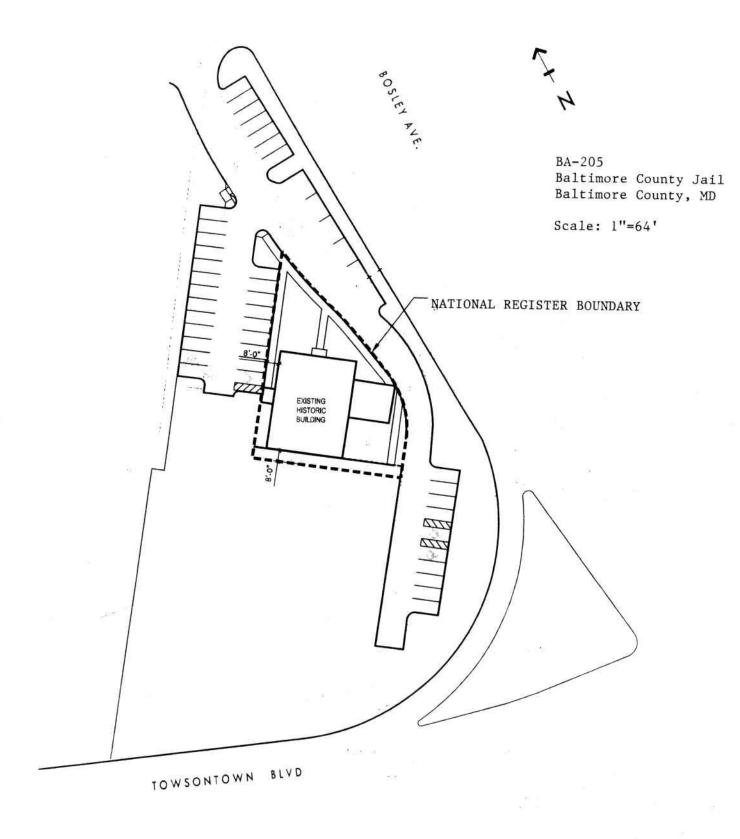
#### Geographical Data

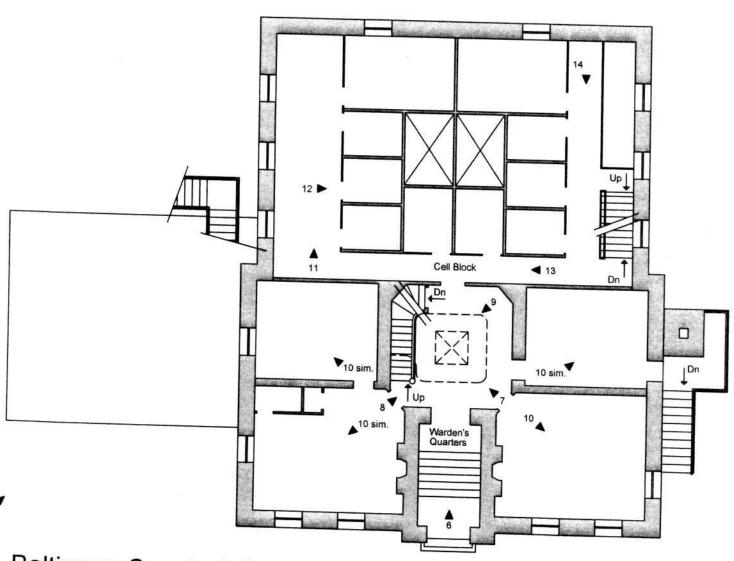
#### **Verbal Boundary Description:**

The nominated property is shown by the broken line on the attached map, entitled "National Register Boundary," drawn to the scale 1"=64'. This is a portion of the parcel described in Liber HMF 9, folio 63, among the Land Records of Baltimore County.

#### **Boundary Justification:**

The nominated property encompasses the remnant of the parcel historically associated with the jail which retains integrity. The remainder of the parcel was, until recently, occupied by large mid- to late-twentieth century structures and associated grading, access, and parking areas. All but the area immediately surrounding the building has been radically altered by construction and demolition activities postdating the period of significance.

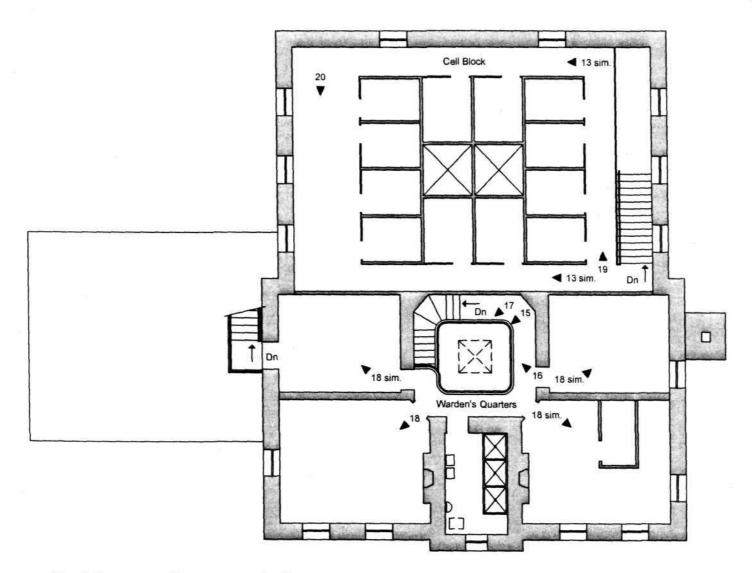




Baltimore County Jail
Baltimore County, MD
Photo Key
Existing First Floor

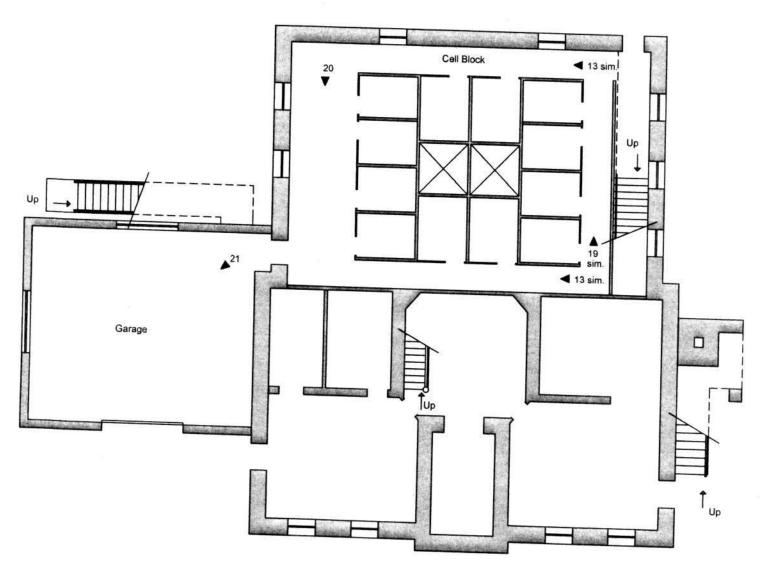
No Scale

BA- 205



# Baltimore County Jail Baltimore County, MD Photo Key Baltimore County, MD Photo Key

Baltimore County, MI Photo Key Existing Second Floor No Scale



# Baltimore County Jail Baltimore County, MD Photo Key

**Existing Basement** No Scale





BA-205 BALTO, COUNTY JAIL BALTO. COUNTY, MD C. BELFOUFE 10/2008 MHT EAST ELEV. / MAIN ENTRY

FVI



BA-205 BAYO. CO. JAIL BALYO. COUNTY, MD. C, BELFOULE 10/2008 MHT EAST & NORTH ELEVATIONS

#20/21



BA-205 BALTO. COUNTY JAIL BAYO. COUNTY, MD C. BELFOULE 10/2008 NORTH & WEST ELEVATIONS

#30/21



BA-205 BALTO COUNTY JAIL BALTO. COUNTY, MD C, BELFOVE 10/2008 MHT WEST & SOUTH ELEVATIONS

#4 0 # 21



BA-205 BAYO. COUNTY JAIL BALTO. COUNTY, MP C. BELFOURE 10/2008 MHT SOUTH & EAST ELEVATIONS #5 0F 21



BH-205 BAYO. COUNTY JAIL BALTO. COUNTY, MD C. BELFOURE 10/2008 MHT ENTRANCE FOYER LOOKING WEST

#6 0 F 21



BH-205 BALGO. COUNTY JAIL BALTO. COUNTY, MP C. BELFIVE 10/2008 CEMPEN'S QUALTERS / 1ST FIR. #70F21



BA-205 BALTO. COUNTY JAIL BALTO. COUNTY, MD C. BELFOURE 10/2008 CENTEAL LOBBY & MAIN STAIR IN QUALTERS & 2ND FUR WARDEN'S BALCONY

#80 # 21



BA-205 BAYO. COUNTY JAIL BAYO. COUNTY, MD C. BELFOVEE 1./2008 SKYLIGHT & 2ND FLE BALCONY FROM 1ST FLE CENTRAL LOBBY #9 0 = 21



BA - 205 BAGO. COUNTY JAIL BALTO. COUNTY, MD C. BELFOYE 10/2008 MHT HPICAL IST FUR RM AT NE. CORNER



BA-205 BAYO. COUNTY JAIL BALGO, COUNTY, MD C. BELFOURE 10/2008 CELIBLOCK LOOKING WEST

#11 0 × 21



MHT CELL ON IST FUX. 12 of 21

BH-205

BAGO. COUNTY JAIL

BAYO. COUNTY, MD

C. BELFOULE

10/2008



BH-205 BALGO. COUNTY JAIL BALTO. COUNTY, MD C. BELFOULE 10/2008 MHT 15% Fix. CEUBLOCK LOOKING SOUTH #13 0 = 21



BA-205 BALGO. COUNTY JAIL BALTO. COUNTY, MD C. BELFOURE 10/2008 CELIBLOCK LOOKING #14 OF 21



BA-205 BALTO. COUNTY JAIL BAYO. COUNTY, MP C. BELFOURE 10/2008 MHT 2ND FLK. OF WARDEN'S QUALGERS LOOKING S.E.

#15 OF 21



BA-205 BAYO. COUNTY JAIL BAYO. COUNTY, MD C. BELFORKE 10/2008 MHT 2ND FIR. BALCONY & SKYLIGHT IN WALDEN'S QUARTELS

#16 0 = 21



BA-205 BALTO. COUNTY JAIL BALTO. COUNTY, MD C. BELFOURE 10/2008 MHT 1 ST FIR CENTRAL LOBBY IN WAKDEN'S QUALTERS FROM 2ND FIR #17 0F21



BH-205 BAYO. COUNTY JAIL BAYO. COUNTY, MD C. BELFOULT 10/2008 MAT HI, CAL 2ND FIR. RM AT SE. COENER

#18 OF 21



BA-205 BALGO. COUNTY JAIL BAYO. COUNTY, MD C. BELFOURE 10/2008 MHT ZND, FIR CELLBLOCK LOOKING WEST (BASEMENT CELLBLOCK SIMILAR)

#19 0 = 21



BALTO COUNTY JAIL BALTO. COUNTY, MD C. BELFOURE 10/2008 MHT EASEMENT CELLBLOCK LOOKING EAST

#20 of 21



BA-205 BAYO. COUNTY, MD C. BELFOURE 10/2008 MHT GARAGE INTERIOR

#21 0 7 21

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME				
HISTORIC				
Bal AND/OR COMMON	timore County Jail			
AND/OR COMMON				
2 LOCATION	I			
STREET & NUMBER				
	00 Bosley Aven	u e	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	
CITY, TOWN	eon	VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRI	ici
STATE			COUNTY	
3 CLASSIFIC	yland ATION			
J CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENTUSE	
DISTRICT	X-PUBLIC .	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	_UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
SITE	_BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITION	WORK IN PROGRESS  ACCESSIBLE	EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT	PRIVATE RESIDENC
OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	_YES: RESTRICTED		_SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	_YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
		_NO	MILITARY	_OTHER:
4 OWNER O	FPROPERTY			
NAME				
	timore County		Telephone #:	
STREET & NUMBER				
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		VICINITY OF		
5 LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	RIPTION		el 366
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6 REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
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DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS				
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
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#### CONDITION

\_EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

\_GOOD

\_\_RUINS
\_\_UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE** 

\_\_UNALTERED

**XALTERED** 

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE

\_\_MOVED

DATE\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The jail building itself is Italianate in design and of stone construction. The solid quality of the stone walls and the castellated appearance of the Italianate is particularly appropriate for a building with this particular function.

The jail has been built onto sereral times but the original portion seems to have been T-shaped in plan with seperate divisions for the incarceration of prisoners and the quartering of a warden's family. The main block is five bays wide and two deep. It is two stories in height above a high basement. The placement of a three story projecting tower on the north facade accentuates the centralized plan. It conceals a centrally located chimney. The shallow hipped roof of the Italianate is present.

The fenestration is regular, tall 6/6 sash windows vent the outer bays of the basement and first story and smaller sash windows suggest the knee windows that are so often seen in the Renaissance villas of Palladio. The tower contains a Roman arch entrance that is reached by three steps. Above the door, within the arch, is a fanlight window protected by iron bars of an appropriate radial pattern. The third level of the tower is lighted by a triad of unusual 2/2 sash.

Tradition holds that the mein block consisted of parlors on the first level on either side of the central hall plus rooms in a similar arrangement above that which were all used by the warden's family. The hall still contains a grand stairs with scrolled step-ends and older employees recall an elegant chandelier that has disappeared since the 1960's. Present use and conditions prevent detailed or complete examination of the building.

The south wing contains the iron cage cell blocks and the south entrance to the courtyard which contained the gallows. Like the "mundane" areas of so many other residences in Towson this portion of the building existed in a wing that was smaller in scale and quite deliberately concealed behind the main block. With the building facing North-Northeast, this activity could not be seen from Court House Square.



PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
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1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X.1800-1899	COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		_INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1854

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

William Allen/ Dixon & Dixon

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When Towson was established as the seat of Baltimore County in 1853 two public buildings were then planned and begun the following year. Both the Court House and Jail were designed by architects Dixon and Dixon and built by William Allen. The Court House which is on the National Register of Historic Places was designed in the popular Greek Revival fashion, however, the architects showed great versatility in producing an Italianate design for the jail. In addition to being a good example of an important American style and being constructed of native stone the jail should be considered as an important visual link to Towson's early development. Only three standing buildings in Towson are known to be older than the Court House and Jail which are our chief visual documents of the courthouse town.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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CITY OR TOWN		STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

One of Baltimore County's records entitled Proceedings Relating to the New Court House and Jail by the Board (1854-1857) proves that the oldest part of the jail building was built at the same time as the court house by the same builder and that it was designed by the same architects. William H. Allen was the builder and the architects were Thomas and James Dixon (Dixon, Ballinie and Dixon received the first payment in June 29, 1854 but thereafter no mention of Ballinie is made).

An act of the Maryland Assembly in January, 1854 established Towson as the County seat and a board of building commissioners were appointed and a building committee created the "Commissioners for the Erection of the Public Buildings at Towson Town" included Joshua Hutchins, William Slater, Edward S. Myers, Charles Timanus, James D. Pope, and John L. Stansbury was "agent for the New Court House and Jail Fund."

The land for the two buildings had been deeded to the County Commissioners in August of 1854 by Dr. Grafton M. Bosley. It included four acres "for the purpose of having errected thereupon a Court House" plus two more acres adjacent to or near the first. The second parcel is presumably the land for the jail although the deed is not specific as it is for the Court House. Both parcels share a common starting point in their metes and bounds and were land that Bosley had acquired from his uncle Josiah Marsh in 1850. Marsh had owned it since the 1830's.

The architects were retained in June of 1854 and Frederick Zur Horst was paid \$9.00 in April for surveying the Court House lot and road "through L. Urbans garden." It is the Zur Horst map of the previous year indicating possible sites that is our earliest detailed map of Towson. Zur Horst's polesman was L. Vogle and his chain carriers were "Yost and Ridgely." Each of these assistants received \$1.00 for thier labor and the receipt indicates that Zur Horst was paid for producing a plat of both the Court House lot and the Jail site.

Dixon and Dixon also received payments for work done simultaneously on both buildings although in a few instances the receipts are specific as to which building their services were for. The first of these mentioning only the Jail was paid to Thomas Dixon on August 24 of 1854. On May 23, however, William H. Allen had been paid \$5,000 for "work done and materials furnished in the errection of the jail..."

Form 10-445 (5/62)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOT APHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore

VICINITY Dist. IX Towson STREET NO. Baltimore nr. Washington Zoo Bosley Ave Avenue

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY BA-205 205 INVENTORY

2. NAME

Baltimore County Jail

DATE OR PERIOD

about 1860

STYLE

ARCHITECT

BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC

A square looking two storied building with square stone cupola, of quarried stone. Eleven rooms, walls - two feet thick - - Land purchased from Grafton M. Bosley in 1854. Additions in 1880 and 1940. A new jail was built to the rear of the old one in 1957.

> (second HABS report) E. Frances Offutt HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY March 20, 1968

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered

Interior

Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

DATE OF RECORD

Form 10-445 (5/62)

1. STATE Maryland

COUNTY Baltimore Co. Town Towson

VICINITY Dist. IX STREET NO. Baltimore near Washington Avenues

ORIGINAL OWNER

ORIGINAL USE Jail

PRESENT OWNER

PRESENT USE

WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES

quarried stone two

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY BA-20620S

2. NAME

Baltimore Co. Jail about 1860 DATE OR PERIOD

STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC

A square looking tow storied building with square stone cupola, of quarried stone. Eleven rooms, walls two-feet thick. Land purchased from Grafton M. Bosley in 1854. Additions in 1880 and 1940. A new jail was built to the rear of the old jail in 1957.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered

Interior

Exterior



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

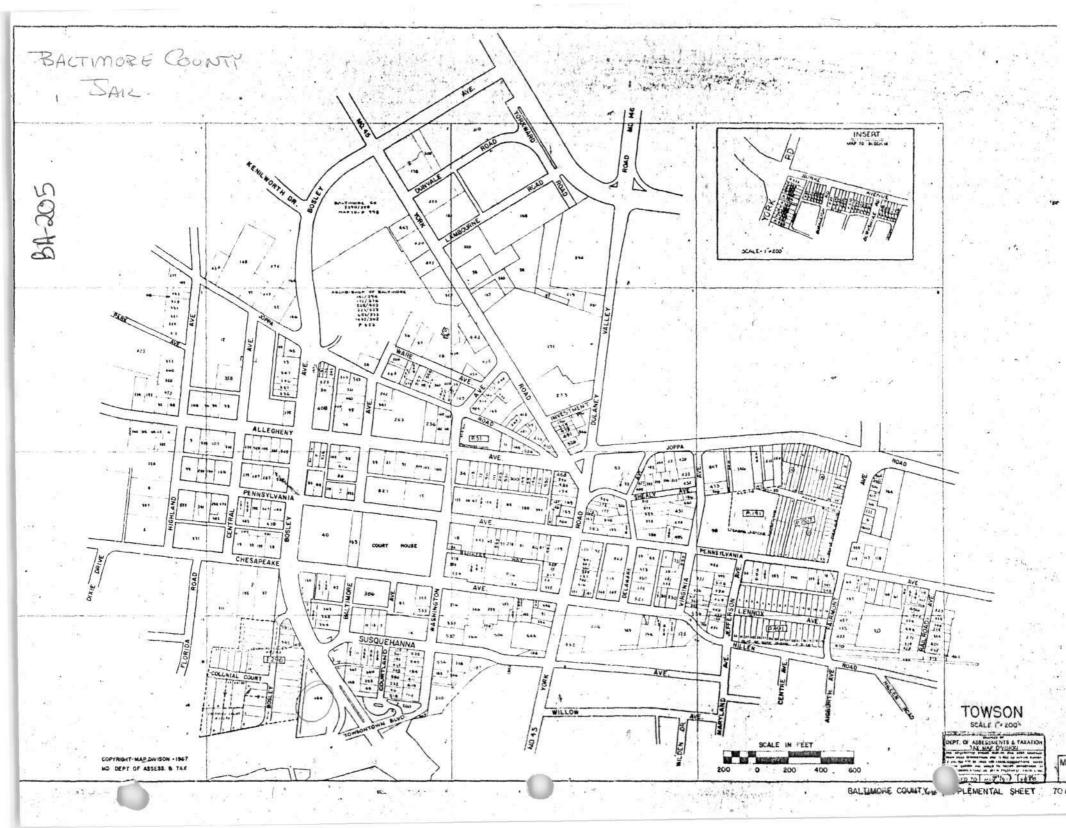
3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Baltimore Co. Hist. Soc. Agriculture Bldg. Texas, Md.

March 20, 1968 DATE OF RECORD

# TITLE SEARCH for BALTIMORE COUNTY JAIL Parcel 366

Same title as that of the Baltimore County Court House: HMF 9/62 (1854) Grafton M. Bosley to Baltimore County.



BA . 205 9 owson Bosley TOWSONTOWN. Ur PLAN OF Real Estate Agent. H. L. BOWEN, Surveyors and Engineers. Miss Julia WHEELER & MOLANE. 1 Barron Bosley H. G. Dr X MP Hiller. Washington E 1 F. L. Vinton Lee Townsend E AVE Burns 180 BALTIMORE Washington I. T. Townsend Washington Ibwasend Kaser Smedley CHES ENNSYLVANIA S Judye COURT Enos TRIN. EPIS. C Emory S G BUB V.S.Keech APEA I CHUNCH Prop. D. H. J.F.C.Talbert HANNA M'Gill Z Fmory HOUSE Jarrett M D. G. He Intosh R. R. Boarman W.F. . R. state Mitchel) AVE. Mrs. Shaun WASHINGTON Dr.J. 9. T. K A. Louse Thisor Piper A Me. C. H. Mann Smedley C.B. S.P. Bosley SMEDLEY Master D Slingluff Z J. W. W. E. Smedley Notes Is HOUSE Mrs Frast AVE E . Enos Smediey Mrs. M. A. 2 MOND Hrs. A. 11. 110 J.W. Longnecker Mrs. M. A. Sheadey J.W. Owings Liviles S.J. Philates Wm. M. Almon A heritary Hobinson Isuac AVE. 0 Wrbans Heirs B E YORK J. Ruller (h Ady's 90 Others 7 3 3 E3 E Mrs MA Shealey 0 Hote. Hison Gen. Ware Heirs. C.E.Fendal R = D. Ø dinie de la Contraction de la AVE Lies N DELAWARE )mil EPSON M. E. CHURCH DE SCHOOL TUE Sharry Sherridae Houch Eng & Luch Walne Just HATINA Scale 200. Feet per inch. 1.5 Mrs. I lang AVE es to be to be VIRGINIA \$ Sam Ord Mrs. D Mrs. BIB John D 5 (Aul) Emory: chew 16.11 The State of Lines Dan! Lee Ler JEFFERSON AVE according to Act of Congress in the year 1877 by & M Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington



BA-205

BALTIMORE COUNTY JAIL N.E. CORNER

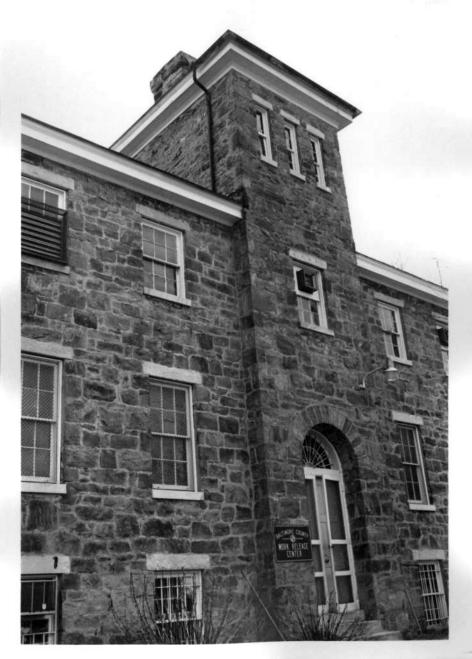
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BA- 205

BALTIMORE COUNTY JAIL N.E. CORNER

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